

AMENDMENTS

Please delete the title of the application as filed, and replace it with the following:

✓  
CELLS IMMORTALIZED WITH TELOMERASE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE  
FOR USE IN DRUG SCREENING

Please amend the claims as follows:

- Sub C1  
examiners
21. (Amended) A method of drug screening or validation of a drug, comprising:
- a) obtaining a drug or drug candidate;
  - b) obtaining a cultured mammalian cell comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a telomerase reverse transcriptase protein, variant, or fragment having telomerase catalytic activity when complexed with a telomerase RNA, wherein the nucleic acid sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to SEQ. ID NO:1, and wherein the expression of the protein, variant, or fragment in the cell increases the number of divisions the cell can undergo before senescence;
  - c) administering the drug or drug candidate to the cultured cell; and
  - d) determining if the drug or drug candidate has an effect on the cell.

C2 1/ 2/ 24. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a constitutive promoter.

5/ 2/ 25. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid comprises an inducible promoter.

Please ADD the following new claim:

- C3 34/ 1/ 26. The method of claim 21, comprising determining whether the drug or drug candidate is lethal to the cell.

Upon allowance of the application, please renumber the claims as follows:

Claim	21	→	1	Claim	41	→	24
	22	→	8		42	→	25
	23	→	6		43	→	26
	24	→	4		44	→	27
	25	→	5		45	→	28
	26	→	9		46	→	29
	27	→	10		47	→	30
	28	→	11		48	→	31
	29	→	12		49	→	32
	30	→	13		50	→	33
	31	→	14		51	→	34
	32	→	15		52	→	35
	33	→	16		53	→	36
	34	→	17		54	→	37
	35	→	18		55	→	38
	36	→	19		56	→	39
	37	→	20		57	→	2
	38	→	21		58	→	3
	39	→	22		59	→	7
	40	→	23				